

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, claims 1 and 4 are amended, and no new claims are added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 10-31 and the indication of allowability of claims 3 and 4. In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-31.

Claims Indicated As Allowable

Claims 3 and 4 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 is amended to include the features of claim 3, which was indicated as allowable, and intervening claim 2. Claim 1 is therefore now in a form indicated as allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claim 1 and claims 4-9 depending therefrom.

Because only claims indicated as allowable and dependent claims thereof remain, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejection is respectfully requested. The amendment of claim 1 should not be considered acquiescence to the assertions regarding patentability by the Examiner. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of original claim 1 and the claims depending therefrom in a subsequent application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to grant any extensions of time and to charge any fees under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 16-0631.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Erik M. Drange". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Erik M. Drange  
Registration No. 57,750

Customer No. 24113  
Patterson, Thunte, Skaar & Christensen, P.A.  
4800 IDS Center  
80 South 8th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-2100  
Telephone: (612) 252-1538